

MEMORANDUM

TO: Heads of Fire Departments

FROM: Stephen D. Coan
State Fire Marshal

DATE: June 1, 2008

SUBJECT: **Firefighter of the Year**

I am pleased once again to request nominations for the Annual *Firefighter of the Year* Awards. Over the past years, the *Firefighter of the Year* event has grown in stature to be the premier event that honors the heroic acts of the men and women in the Massachusetts fire service; and I hope that you will take the time to reflect on your own department's activities and sort out incidents that are worthy of recognition. I encourage you to participate in the process by selecting candidates from your department who have gone beyond the call of duty to serve their community.

Please forward your submissions of candidates performing outstanding acts of bravery and/or community service between July 1, 2007, and June 30, 2008, following the guidelines as attached. Due to the outstanding response received last year, the Heroic Awards Selection Committee once again invites chiefs to submit names of their personnel, who have been deployed or are still deployed in active service in support of either Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan). In addition, the committee will be accepting nominations for the Patriot Award for fire service personnel who, while on deployment, performed heroic actions on the battlefield at great personal risk, demonstrating uncommon bravery and valor and who have returned to service in your fire department. Guidelines for the Scroll of Honor & Patriot Award can be found on the attached nomination form.

Your selections should be forwarded to Barbara Steele at the above address no later than September 15, 2008. The committee will meet at the beginning of October to review the nominations and forward their decisions to the Governor. Once again, fire chiefs who have submitted nominations will be afforded the opportunity to meet with the Heroic Awards Committee to further support their nomination(s) and answer any questions that the Committee may have. Note the check off box at the bottom of the nomination form.

I look forward to hearing from your department.

SDC/bhs
Encs.